

STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH PRESS RELEASE

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

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MEDIA ADVISORY

"Spread the Word! Not the Disease!"

Youth summit June 29th to teach HIV and STD prevention

BALTIMORE, MD June 22, 2011 – "Spread the Word, Not the Disease! Get Talking! Get Tested! Get Treated!" is the theme for the 2011 HIV Prevention Youth Summit. The summit will be held on June 29th in Baltimore. This free event is organized by the After-School Institute and cosponsored by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) Infectious Disease and Environmental Health Administration (IDEHA), the Baltimore City Health Department, and the Maryland State Department of Education.

"It is important to teach youth how to protect themselves from getting HIV and STIs," said Heather Hauck, Director of IDHEA. "We estimate that there are 400 youth in Maryland who are living with HIV."

The summit will bring together youth, parents, peer educators, community leaders, service providers, and faith based organizations to address issues, network, and share best practices in STI/HIV prevention. Features include a youth panel, free HIV counseling and testing services, exhibits, and educational workshops. The summit will begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at 4:00 p.m.at the Pikesville Hilton, 1726 Reisterstown Road, Baltimore, Maryland. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Registration is free. To register, call 410.580.0750, email atillery@afterschoolinstitute.org, or visit www.afterschoolinstitute.org and click on "2011 HIV Prevention Youth Summit" to register.